

Post Canteens.

Those who feel themselves racked with horror that canteens for the sale of beer and tobacco under strict post surveillance should be permitted in army camps may study with profit the reports from Camp Black in New York. There is no canteen there yet, so the soldiers accustomed to the indulgence of a glass of beer sought it in the village of Hempstead. Naturally they fell into bad company, and the Provost Marshal in seeking them was interfered with by the saloon keepers, who aided the men out of line without leave to escape the Marshal. Give the men canteen privileges and they will stay in camp, where discipline, decency and temperance prevail.

The President and the Hart Petition.

President McKinley has promised to give freedom to John D. Hart, who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary, Philadelphia, for organizing a filibustering expedition on the Laurada to aid the Cuban patriots. After war was declared the manifest injustice of keeping Hart a prisoner for doing what the entire country is now engaged in became so apparent that a movement was organized in his behalf. Nearly all the United States Senators and Representatives in Congress and thousands of prominent people throughout the country signed the petition for Hart's pardon, and a Congressional committee presented it at the White House. President McKinley assured the committee that the pardon would be granted.

TAX THE POOR—NO INCOME TAX FOR THE RICH.

That is Republican Policy. The Republicans in Congress have voted for the rich, exempting them from taxation by voting against the income tax, only one gold Democrat (Caffery) voting with them, and put the onus of taxation entirely upon the poor man, who is thus compelled to fight our battles and pay the cost. Such a cruel thing would be impossible even in Russia.

The Democratic Senators are now striving to prevent the doubling of the tax on beer, because it is a tax on the laboring classes that consume the beer, but fortunately who also have votes by the millions. They argue that as the war will be most likely over in a very short time, there is no necessity to force 35 millions more annually out of the "poor man's beverage." The whole war cost may not reach 200 millions; it would, therefore, be a great and outrageous wrong to compel the poor people for one of their articles to pay the enormous sum of 70 millions, the highest collected from any revenue article, when there is no necessity for it.

Leading Democratic Senators have assured us that they will do everything in their power to defeat the beer tax increase, believing that 35 millions are enough revenue from that one article. They will use every means to have an income tax adopted, and that will give us with the money in the Treasury, including the 42 millions of seigniorage silver, all the money we want. Even should the beer tax be increased it will not help us much immediately as it is collected monthly in equal sums of three millions.

Equality of taxation is one of the fundamental principles underlying our Government. There should be no class legislation. All should pay alike to sustain the Government in peace and in war. The laboring and farming classes, who will have to risk their lives in battle on land and sea, should not be overtaxed, as is now contemplated, for the millionaire drinks no beer, and hence pays none of the 35 millions more now asked by the Republicans.

Why is it not as easy to tax the millionaire as the workingman? Why not reach the luxuries he enjoys whilst overtaxing the only luxury, if it is a luxury, the glass of beer of the laboring man. The Democrats know that such imposition on the working classes will not be submitted to quietly at the next elections. The people will reward them and punish the Republicans for such an outrage.

Let the Democratic Senators be a unit again as they were last year against the 44 cents increase. There are Republican Senators from the West who will be forced to help them in self defence. This is a question of deeper importance than many imagine. It may put the Democrats in power again.

The Beer Tax Vote in the House.

All the Republican members in the House voted for doubling the beer tax. All Democrats, except six, voted against it. One of the best and truest Democratic members, Mr. Kieberg, of

Texas, before the passage of the bill, made an excellent speech.

We copy a portion of his speech, to which we direct the particular attention of our German American colleagues:

Now, what are the provisions of this bill? It is that the taxes to be levied by this measure are aimed to rest lightly upon the taxpayer, and only those who voluntarily submit to the payment of these taxes can be affected. Yet in the very first paragraph we are met with the fact that beer, the most commonly used beverage of the poor, has laid upon it a tax of \$3,000,000.

Now, gentlemen, may I make light of this? It may be said that the people who drink beer should pay and are able to pay the tax, that beer is a luxury, etc. But let me remind you that it is also the poor man's beverage, and one of the few luxuries in which he is permitted to indulge. The great laboring classes of this country are not drunkards, but they indulge in the lightest and most harmless of all alcoholic beverages and are not able to indulge in high priced drinks, and upon them, the very men who are expected to fight this war, this tax will fall. The same can be said of the additional tax on tobacco. Tobacco has almost got to be a necessity, just as much so as tea or coffee, and it has laid on it an additional heavy tax.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as long as it is possible at this time, we should pay as we go. If it is proposed to lay these taxes on the poor, why not tax at the same time the wealthy with a tax on incomes of \$2,000 and above that sum, and instead of 2 per cent. make it 1 per cent. during this war? This would be a tax which would operate more equally upon the poor and rich alike.

By such a measure \$100,000,000 could easily be raised, and if the beer and the tobacco tax is justifiable in war, certainly an income tax would be. Why do not the majority add this amendment? They tell us that it is unconstitutional, and that we fly in the face of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. I have yet to hear any gentleman assert that there is anything in that decision which says that an income tax cannot be levied and collected in time of war. I say the Supreme Court will never decide that it cannot be done, and this is an excellent time to enact such a tax. It is as just and as legal now and free of constitutional objection as it was in 1864, during the civil war. Why is it not done?

"Coal, Coal, Coal."

With attention now directed to naval operations on the Atlantic Ocean, nothing could be more interesting than the London special giving the views of H. W. Wilson, the most noted living British naval expert, as to the problems set our fleets.

Mr. Wilson rests all his calculations on coal. Assuming that every ship in the Spanish fleet has full bunkers and is carrying all the deck load of coal she can; assuming that all this is the best Welsh steam coal; assuming that it will be used in the most economical way possible on the voyage—none of which assumptions is even probable except the last—Mr. Wilson finds that the Spanish warships would reach this side with only a few hundred tons of coal to spare for operations here. For a few days they might be efficient. After that they must get coal somewhere or become helpless hulks.

They cannot get coal in the British or Danish West Indies. If we seize Porto Rico, as is likely, they will lose their own supply, as they cannot get into Havana harbor.

Where then, if we are alert, can they coal? Mr. Wilson suggests that they may do so in some unfrequented South American port, or that they can run into some wayside Cuban port they may receive supplies from some tramp collier.

Mr. Wilson thinks our ships should intercept the Spaniards at sea. Then, he says, the Spanish must either fight or run away. "If she fights, Spain must be smashed hands down. If the fleet runs, the Yankee cruisers, fresh from port, full up with coal and in fine trim, will quickly overtake the rear ship and attack it. If the other Spanish ships stop to give help, Sampson's battleships will come up and send the Spaniards to the bottom."

All this is the analysis not of an American enthusiast but of a British expert, a special authority on "ironclads in action."

Free Bread.

One of the best bits of news we have heard for many a day is that France and Italy have suspended their tariff duties on wheat till July 1. These people have never been deluded with the idea that "the foreigner pays the duty."

The French duty is equivalent to 36 cents a bushel. The Italian is rather less. Both are practically prohibitive, and their suspension opens to us two rich markets that have been in effect closed hitherto.

There is added this other piece of news, that Russia—our greatest European rival in feeding mankind—finds her grain supply so short that a decree has been issued forbidding grain exports. Thus we have new markets and a withdrawal of competition at a time when our farmers still hold a great proportion of their last year's grain.

All this means 10 cents a bushel more to our farmers and other holders on present prices, with an additional 20 or 30 cents advance in prospect.

The Yellow Fever Scare.

Dr. John B. Hamilton, ex-Surgeon General of the United States Marine Hospital Service, has had larger experience, perhaps, than any other living physician in dealing with yellow fever epidemics.

In an address before the Chicago Physicians' Club on May 3, he fully sustained the views heretofore expressed.

(1) That with proper camp sanitation there is no great danger in sending American troops into Cuba; and

(2) That yellow fever is a dirt disease always, which can be avoided by cleanliness.

He points out that the nurses and attendants in his open air yellow fever camps near Jacksonville and elsewhere were at no time in danger of contracting the disease. He cites Great Britain's success in banishing yellow fever from Kingston, Jamaica, by mere cleanliness, to show that the disease is always and everywhere the fault not of climate but of man's own carelessness.

He might have cited also New York and Philadelphia, once subject to fearful ravages but now immune; Charleston, which has never had a yellow fever epidemic since it built sewers, though the disease has been imported into the town in midsummer heats, and New Orleans under Gen. Butler's rule of cleanliness and disinfection.

Dr. Hamilton says that Havana and its harbor constitute a nest of this pestilence simply because of Spanish inattention to cleanliness and purity and ordinary prudence. He regards the prevalence of the disease there as a constant menace to our coast cities, and in itself a cause and justification of war in self defense.

It has been contended from the first, and upon adequate knowledge of the facts, that the yellow fever danger in sending troops to Cuba is very greatly exaggerated, and that with proper attention to the selection and sanitation of camps it can be reduced to nearly nothing. This is now the published view of Dr. Hamilton, the greatest living expert on the subject.

A Berlin View.

The leading diplomats in Berlin look for a sudden end of the war between the United States and Spain. The more optimistic go so far as to predict that not another big battle will be fought. This sentiment is based on the present internal crisis in Spain, which is on the brink of an insuppressible revolution and the overthrow of the reigning dynasty. Should events follow each other in rapid succession and a republic be established, it is argued that Spain will at once sue for peace.

At any rate, the powers are already exchanging correspondence as to the attitude to be assumed in case of a sudden change of government in Spain. There is much lobbying going on just now among the representatives of the powers and the Spanish leaders. Most of the former are in favor of a Spanish republic, knowing that a Democratic administration will see the folly of continuing a war in which everything is to be lost and nothing can be gained.

It is almost certain that even if through the mediation of other European nations peace were to be established at once it would be impossible to save the monarchy.

THEATRICAL.

Next Monday night Cosgrove & Grant's Comedians will present that ever entertaining farce comedy, The Dazzler, at the Grand Opera House with usual matinees.

In this case it is safe to say "always entertaining," for every year the Dazzler comes to us in a new dress, so new that nothing remains of the previous season's performance but pleasing recollections. This year's production will prove no exception to the rule, but on the contrary the changes have been even more sweeping than ever. The piece is filled with new music, dances and specialties not one of the old numbers of last season remaining.

The ladies are bright, pretty and graceful, as well as tuneful of voice; and their charms are set off by new and elegant sets of costumes throughout.

Those members of the company who made special hits last season have been retained, but a number of new faces will be seen and it is predicted that in every case the change will be considered a decided improvement.

For this season the company consists of: Ida Rogers, Will West, Agnes Evans, Emilie Heusel, Lizzie Sanger, Boudien & Griffith, Ray Marks, Frank Mack, Eva Leslie, E. Cosgrove, Evelyn Murphy, W. H. Way, Rose Leslie, Daisy Dwyer and May Fiske.

The Academy will be given up to local attractions next week. On Monday, May 16, Mr. James Young will make his first appearance in Washington. Mr. Young is a Baltimorean, and quite a social favorite in that city. It was his love for classic drama that has brought him early to the stage as a star in great parts. It is said that Mr. Young has shown positive talent in his chosen profession, and his youthful appearance makes his impersonation of Prince Hamlet one of the most interesting performances to be seen on the stage. During the Washington engagement Mr. Young will be seen as Hamlet. David Garrick, Shylock and Claude Melnotte.

THEATRICAL.

Vandeville at the New National Theatre.

KOSTER & BIAL'S COMPANY OF FOREIGN STARS TO APPEAR FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9TH.

An extraordinary move has been made by the management of the New National Theatre, in the importation of the Koster & Bial Company from its music hall in New York City, for the delectation of its patrons during the week commencing May 9th. This organization has no bearing or relation to any so-called road companies touring the country bearing the Koster & Bial's trade mark, but is a company of European vaudeville artists which have been appearing in their New York theatre for the past fifteen weeks, and will positively be seen at no other theatre in this country, as its members return to New York at the end of this engagement. This will be the first instance on record when the organization has left the parent house, and the feat was not accomplished easily nor without the expenditure of a large sum of money. The aggregation is headed by Charmion, the young foreigner, who for 19 weeks has been the talk of the metropolis. She is a wonderfully handsome woman and simply as a tragedienne has won fame, for if she did nothing else but exhibit her skill as a gymnast she would find crowds to applaud. But she does something else, as daring as it is risqué, which packs the house. She mounts to the lofty swinging bar in street dress, flowing skirts, gaily plumed hat, and all, and then, as she swings to and fro, she gradually frees herself from the manifold embarrassments of her clothes, until—well, there is practically nothing left to incumber her movements. She remains on high, and the vast accumulation of feminine accoutrement remains in a heap below. This process of denudation is carried on in a variety of ways. She hangs by the back of her neck and removes her boots, and then she hangs by her toes and removes her sartorial superstructure. The hat, it is said, is the last thing in sight. New Yorkers gravely wagged their heads, marveled at the development of the living picture, and then secured coupons for the best seats, and the Charmion rage soon spread to all the clubs. Now, we shall see what will happen here. Other artists in the company are the Picchian sisters, light in member, a wonderful family of Italian acrobats, Delmore and Lee, bar performers of extraordinary merit; Burke and Andrus, and their trained California broncho mule; Herbert's dogs, introducing the wonderful canine, Dink, who unassisted dives from a ladder 40 feet high into a net below; Silverne and Emery, who promise great things with the flying rings; dainty Clarisse Agnew, in up-to-date songs, and Willis and Loretto, musical sketch artists.

Next week

Reserved Seats, 25, 50 and 75.

Saturday Matinee and Evening

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Next week

"The World Against Her."

Seats now selling.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

KERNAN & RIFE, MANAGERS.

Week Commencing Monday, May 9.

Usual Matinees Wed. and Sat. at 2.

COSGROVE & GRANT'S COMEDIANS.

In the Rollicking Musical Farce Comedy

For Tuesday, 9.40 p.m.

For Wednesday, 9.40 p.m.

For Thursday, 9.40 p.m.

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NEW NATIONAL

Saturday matinee and evening.

Mr. Charles Frohman will present Mr.

JOHN DREW

In a new comedy by Henry V. Esmond,

ONE SUMMER'S DAY.

WEEK OF MAY 9,

KOSTER & BIAL'S

Congress of Foreign Stars,

Headed by

CHARMION.

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ACADEMY.

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